



Chief Planning Officer
Rother District Council
Town Hall
Bexhill on Sea
TN39 3JX

17 June 2019

TIME SENSITIVE - 90 Day Consultation period end date: 15 September 2019

Dear Chief Planning Officer,

Further to our previous letter, we are writing to you as part of a formal consultation process regarding our current programme of intended public payphone removals. This letter formally starts our consultation with you and the local community.

There are currently 15 public payphones in your area which have been identified and proposed for removal by BT under the 90-day consultation process and details of these payphones are shown below.

To ensure that the local community are fully informed, we have placed consultation notices on the relevant payphones, and a sample notice is enclosed. We have also included the date we posted these notices on the payphones. The consultation period will close on 15 September 2019. Unless you contact us to agree otherwise, responses received after this date will not be accepted.

This consultation process gives your local communities the opportunity to adopt a traditional red 'heritage' phone box and make them an asset that local people can enjoy. It's really simple to do and it costs just £1 - <http://bt.com/adopt>

Overall use of payphones has declined by over 90 per cent in the last decade and the need to provide payphones for use in emergency situations is diminishing all the time, with at least 98 per cent of the UK having either 3G or 4G coverage. This is important because as long as there is network coverage, it's now possible to call the emergency services, even when there is no credit or no coverage from your own mobile provider.

You may also want to consider the recent Ofcom affordability report which found that most people do not view payphones as essential for most consumers in most circumstances - http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/research/affordability/affordability_report.pdf

On the 14th March 2006 the Office of Communications (Ofcom) published a statement following their 2005 review of universal service in the Telecommunications market, which includes a requirement for payphone provision to meet reasonable needs. Part of that statement amended our obligations with regard to the removal of payphone service

https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0021/34266/statement.pdf

As stated in Ofcom's 2005 review, it is the responsibility of the local authority to initiate its own consultation process to canvas the views of the local community. They would normally expect these consultations to involve other public organisations such as the Parish or Community councils and work within the terms of the Communications Act 2003. This means that you must be able to objectively justify your decisions.

Full guidance on the removal process can be viewed at:

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/uso/statement/removals.pdf>

and a summary is available at:

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/uso/statement/removing_callboxes.pdf

The guidance also details the appeals process we must follow in case of unreasonable objections.

What you need to do next

Please complete and return the attached annex with your decision on each payphone.

If the decision is that the local community wish to 'adopt', please provide their contact details and we'll do the rest.

If you wish to 'object', you'll need to complete the last column with your reasons, having reviewed all of the factors set out in Annex 1 of Ofcom's guidance (see link above), and the information sent to you in our previous letter.

If the information is incomplete for any payphone in the list, then we'll assume you have no objection to its removal and also that you do not wish to adopt it.

The best way to respond to us is by email at btp.authorisation.team@bt.com. Please retain proof that the email was sent or apply a read receipt. If you would prefer to respond by post please use the following address and allow at least two days for postal delivery:

BT Payphones

pp 4th Floor Monument TE
11 – 13 Great Tower Street
London
EC3R 5AQ

You will need to obtain proof of postage from your local post office and be aware that we are unable to receive mail that requires a signature.

If you've got any questions then please get in touch with us by emailing btp.authorisation.team@bt.com.

Yours sincerely

Rick Thompson
Payphone Planning Officer

British Telecommunications plc
Registered office:
81 Newgate Street
London EC1A 7AJ
Registered in England No 1800000
www.bt.com

Please use this annex and return in this format to ensure that the telephone number of the kiosk is clearly shown.

A separate sheet can be used for further comments if required.

If you would like an electronic copy of this letter, please e mail btp.authorisation.team@bt.com

Rother District

	Telephone Number	Address	Post Code	Number of calls in last 12 months	Posting Completed Date	Agree/ Adopt/ Object	Comments/Reasons
1	01424218419	JCN ST JAMES RD PCO1 HOLLIERS HILL BEXHILL-ON-SEA	TN40 2DD	26	12/06/2019		
2	01424222187	JCN ASHBY CLOSE PCO1 JUBILEE ROAD BEXHILL-ON-SEA	TN39 5DR	49	12/06/2019		
3	01424842254	PCO PCO1 COLLINGTON RISE BEXHILL-ON-SEA	TN39 3RT	2	12/06/2019		
4	01424882411	OPP MURCO GARAGE UDIMORE RD PCO1 UDIMORE ROAD BROAD OAK RYE	TN31 6DG	18	13/06/2019		
5	01435882428	PCO PCO1 HIGHFIELDS BURWASH ETCHINGHAM	TN19 7HE	0	13/06/2019		
6	01435882731	O/S WHEEL INN PCO1 HEATHFIELD ROAD BURWASH WEALD ETCHINGHAM	TN19 7LA	13	13/06/2019		
7	01580200249	PCO PCO1 HIGH STREET TICEHURST WADHURST	TN5 7BB	2	13/06/2019		
8	01580830250	O/S TEL EX PCO1 NORTHIAM ROAD STAPLECROSS ROBERTSBRIDGE	TN32 5QH	2	13/06/2019		
9	01580830401	ADJ TWO WHARF COTT THE GREEN PCO1 BODIAM ROBERTSBRIDGE	TN32 5UB	16	13/06/2019		
10	01580860227	SILVER HILL PCO1 LONDON ROAD HURST GREEN ETCHINGHAM	TN19 7PS	8	13/06/2019		

	Telephone Number	Address	Post Code	Number of calls in last 12 months	Posting Completed Date	Agree/ Adopt/ Object	Comments/Reasons
11	01580860259	NR JCN STATION RD (A265) PCO1 LONDON ROAD HURST GREEN ETCHINGHAM	TN19 7PN	3	13/06/2019		
12	01580880311	NEW CUT PCO1 HOATH HILL MOUNTFIELD ROBERTSBRIDGE	TN32 5LL	2	13/06/2019		
13	01797223661	PCO PCO1 LEA AVENUE RYE	TN31 7BH	15	13/06/2019		
14	01797230347	PCO PCO1 MAIN STREET PEASMARSH RYE	TN31 6YA	1	13/06/2019		
15	01797260235	PCO PCO1 MAIN STREET BECKLEY RYE	TN31 6RG	20	13/06/2019		

Signature:

Area: Rother District